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## PERISCOPE

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### The Kremlin Picks Reagan

The Kremlin expects Ronald Reagan to win in November, according to U.S. intelligence reports. The reports say that Georgi Arbatov, the top Soviet Americanologist, is spreading the word on Reagan in talks with Western European Communist officials. Arbatov's message: Soviet leaders are ready and willing to do business with Reagan and anticipate no particular problems, since they have dealt effectively with past Republican administrations.

### Ford as Elder Statesman

Despite his public protestations last week that he does not see himself as an elder statesman, Gerald Ford now seems eager to take on roles befitting a former President. Ford told NEWSWEEK that he is willing to serve as chairman of a proposed new Federal government-reorganization commission, just as Herbert Hoover did in the 1940s. He also said that he would be available to take charge of investigations of major agencies, such as the CIA—jobs, as Ford puts it, “where my background and experience are relevant.”